REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are active in the case.

The Examiner is thanked for the courteous interview conducted on May 18, 2004 in which the final Office Action and the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132, filed with the Amendment on April 16, 2004 were discussed with regard to their relationship to the disclosure of Miyamoto et al. The Examiner agreed, after a discussion with his supervisor, that a response should be filed to the final Office Action arguing that the results of the Declaration establish superiority for nitrogen plasma of the present claims over oxygen and argon plasmas, two plasmas shown for use in Miyamoto et al. The Examiner further stated that, pending an updated search, either the case would be allowed or a new non-final rejection would be issued.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al is traversed.

Miyamoto et al disclose in column 3, line 56 through column 4, line 35 and column 5, line 67 through column 6, line 5 numerous plasmas used in treating organic films to increase adhesivity, including oxygen and argon plasmas. The Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132, filed with the Amendment of April 16, 2004, demonstrates the superiority of adhesion of metal deposited on insulating substrates containing various amounts of filler within the range of the present claims, when the insulating substrates are treated by nitrogen plasma according to the present claims, when compared to the same substrates treated by oxygen plasma or argon plasma, two of the plasmas used in Miyamoto et al.

Table 1 in the Declaration under 35 U.S.C. §1.132 shows three different base resins having filler material in two different amounts within the range of the present

claims treated by nitrogen plasma according to the present invention, oxygen plasma and argon plasma, according to Miyamoto et al, respectively. In the case of each base resin having filler material within the range of the present claims, treatment with nitrogen plasma demonstrated superior results in adhesion between deposited metal and the plasma treated surface of the base resin having filler in which the adhesivity was increased from a range of 6% up to 220%, when compared to the same resins having the same fillers and treated by oxygen plasma and argon plasma, two plasmas disclosed for use in Miyamoto et al.

Therefore, it is clear from the results of the Declaration that nitrogen plasma treatment of a base resin containing filler material according to the present claims produces superior adhesion between the base resin and deposited metal, when compared to the same base resin with the same filler material treated by oxygen plasma or argon plasma, two plasmas disclosed in Miyamoto et al. For the above reasons it is submitted that the claims distinguish over the combination of references.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Inoue et al in view of Miyamoto et al and Swisher et al is traversed.

The arguments made above in the response to the rejection over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al are equally applicable to the rejection over Inoue et al in view of Miyamoto et al and Swisher et al, because of the superior results shown in the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132. The claims distinguish over the combination of references.

The rejection of Claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al and Bersted et al is traversed.

The arguments made above in the response to the rejection over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al are equally applicable to the rejection over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al and Bersted et al. The superior results shown in the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 distinguish the claims over the combination of references.

The rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Inoue et al in view of Miyamoto et al and Freeman et al is traversed.

The arguments made above in the response to the rejection over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al are equally applicable to the rejection over Inoue et al in view of Miyamoto et al and Freeman et al. The superior results shown by the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 distinguish the claims over the combination of references.

The rejection of Claims 1, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okada et al in view of Kobayashi et al and Miyamoto et al is traversed.

The arguments made above in the response to the rejection over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al are equally applicable to the rejection over Okada et al in view of Kobayashi et al and Miyamoto et al. The superior results shown in the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 distinguish the claims over the combination of references.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Inoue et al in view of Kobayashi et al further in view of JP 53-62175 and Miyamoto et al is traversed.

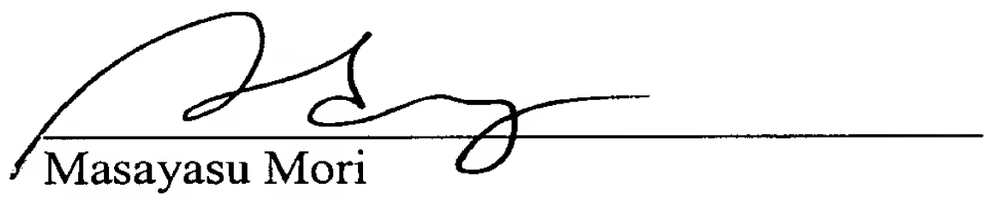
The arguments made above in response to the rejection over Watanabe et al in view of Miyamoto et al are equally applicable to the rejection over Inoue et al in view

of Kobayashi et al, JP 53-62175 and Miyamoto et al. The superior results shown in the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 distinguish the claims over the combination of references.

Accordingly, for the reasons presented above, it is submitted that Claims 1-22 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Masayasu Mori
Attorney of Record
Registration No.: 47,301

Roland E. Martin
Registration No.: 48,082

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
REM:smi